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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7831

INFO RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PNAMA IMMEDIATE 8390

RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE 7844

RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE 7437

RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE 8084

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 3931

EO 12356: DECL OADR

TAGS: ASEC AEMR NU

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING TO DISCUSS THE
BOMBING OF SANDINO AIRPORT

1. (U) WIRE SERVICES

AND LOCAL RADIO STATIONS ARE REPORTING THE BOMBING OF SANDINO AIRPORT IN MANAGUA BY TWO SMALL AIRCRAFT AT APPROX. 5:30 AM. THE AIRCRAFT ALSO REPORTEDLY BOMBED NEAR THE HOME OF GRN FOREIGN MINISTER MIGUEL D'ESCOTO. ONE AIRCRAFT WAS REPORTED SHOT DOWN AND ITS TWO OCCUPANTS, A FORMER AERONICA PILOT AND AN FAS DESERTER, KILLED. THE AIRPORT WAS CLOSED TO ALL INCOMING AND OUTGOING FLIGHTS THIS MORNING AND THE CONTROL TOWER AND MAIN BUILDING APPEAR DAMAGED. CLEARANCE FOR THE FLIGHT OF CODEL COHEN, WHICH WAS DUE TO ARRIVE AT 9:10AM, HOWEVER, WAS GIVEN BY THE GRN SHORTLY BEFORE 9:00AM. THE CODEL FLIGHT, APPARENTLY, HAS DIVERTED TO TEGUCIGALPA. LOCAL RADIO STATIONS, WHILE NOT MENTIONING THE EMBASSY, HAVE BEGUN TO DENOUNCE THE BOMBING AS PART OF THE AGGRESSIVE CAMPAIGN OF THE CIA AND THE IMPERIALISTS. A GRN FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE HAS STATED THAT THIS ATTACK IS PART OF THE PLAN FOR US AGGRESSION AGAINST NICARAGUA.

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2. (C)- THE EMERGENCY ACTION COMMITTEE MET AND DECIDED ON THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

THE MSG DETACHMENT WILL CONTINUE TO STANDBY AT THE MARINE HOUSE.
ALL CLASSIFIED HOLDINGS WILL BE IMMEDIATELY REDUCED AND OVERNIGHT STORAGE WILL BE IN THE PCC VAULT.

LOCAL MEDIA WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED FOR ANY INDICATION OF DEMONSTRATIONS OR OTHER ACTIONS DIRECTED AT THE EMBASSY.
PLANS FOR EARLY DISMISSAL OF NON-ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL IN CASE OF A DEMONSTRATION WILL BE REVIEWED.

RECENTLY ARMORED MOTOR POOL VEHICLES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR EMPLOYEE SHUTTLE SERVICE SHOULD THERE BE ANY INDICATION OF DEMONSTRATIONS OR OTHER ANTI-US ACTIVITIES.
QUAINTON

END OF MESSAGE

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